Applications under RTI

†2437. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications under Right to Information Act received by his Ministry and associated departments and those which have been replied for on time upto October, 2006;

(b) the number of application which have either not been replied or. replied with the information which is either wrong or not based on facts; and

(c) the steps Government would take to order inquiry and take suitable action against the officers furnishing wrong information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKE-EL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The information is as under:—

1. Department of Telecommunications:

i. Number of applications received under RTI Act, 2005 inthe Department of Telecommunications upto October, 2006	-321
ii. Number of applications replied within the prescribed time limit upto October, 2006	-56
iii. Number of applications replied after the prescribed time limit upto October, 2006	-131
iv. Number of applications transferred to the other concerned public Authorities upto October, 2006	- 46

The remaining 88 applications are under process for collection of information. All the applications are replied on the basis of the facts available with the Department even if there is delay in certain cases due to voluminous information requested for and locating old records relevant to the desired information. No wrong information has been provided during the relevant period.

2. Department of posts:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(ii) one
(iii) Inquiry is under process

3. Department of Information Technology (including NIC)

(i) Total no. of applications received under RTI Act-118 (ii) Total No. of applications replied-112 (iii) Total No. of applications under process-6

The information as available based on the facts with the Departments has been given to the applicants. No wrong information has been provided during the relevant period.

(c) Does not arise.

Sortage of post offices in villages

2438. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is large shortage of post offices in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise number of post offices at present and the number of post offices required to meet the shortage situation most particularly in villages; and

(c) when the post offices are expected to be set up in villages, State-wise, particularly in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. India has the largest Postal-Network in the world with 1,55,333 Post Offices (as on 31-03-2006) of which 89% are in rural areas. On an average a Post Office serves an area of 21.16 sq. kms and population of 6623 persons, which compares very favourably with other countries.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Post Offices are opened subject to fulfilment of distance, population and income norms. In consonance with the policy directives of the 10th Plan regarding rationalization of the postal network, no plan targets have